(c) whether at the national level only 41 percent of teachers' requirements has been met under SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) At the national level 64% of the teacher post sanctioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) so far, have been filled. Teachers appointed under the SSA, in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh & West Bengal so far, are 1911, 32894, 1868, 49723 and 16148 respectively.

Un Population Fund Report

2786.SHRI B.K.HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether India has studied the recently released UN Population Fund Report on the State of World Population 2005 ranking India at a lowly four, preceded by Niger, Congo and Afghanistan in the matter of girls getting married before they turn 18;

(b) whether the report says that more than 50 per cent of the India girls are married before they turn 18;

(c) whether the report lays emphasis on the negative impact of child marriage on reproductive health; and

(d) whether these large number of child marriages are within the legal framework?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The legal are of marriage in India as per Child Marriage (Restraint) Act is 18 years. The Goverment has already taken a strict view of the problem and has taken several steps to eliminate this social evil of child marriages from the country. Such as,

- State Goverments have been asked for strict implementation of child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929.
- State Goverments have been asked to take necessary measures to prevent child marriages in their States.

- The proposal for amendment to the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929 is presently under consideration of the Goverment which would help in better implementation of the Act.
- NHRC is also taking steps at its level to address the issue.
- A strong media campaign is being launched by the Department of Women and Child Development especially to target prevention of child marriages in the festival season of Akshaya Teej.
- During 2002-03 and 2003-04, the National Commission for Women launched Bal Vivah Virodhi Abhiyan and in 2004-2005 the Commission has asked the State Goverments to take steps to curb child marriages.
- The Commission is also collaborating with State Goverments and State Women Commissions for launching the Bal Vivah Virodhi Abhiyan and putting efforts to generate awareness this social evil.
- The States have also been requested to furnish the details of incidence of child marriages in their States, number of cases, efforts made by the State Goverment and the NGOs working in the area.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Jharkhand

2787. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether programmes/schemes under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been under implementation in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the situation in the urban and rural areas; seperately

(c) whether any review of its progress, namely quality of implementation reduction or otherwise of school dropout rate, enhancement of school infrastructure and teacher-student ratio etc., has been carried out in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;and